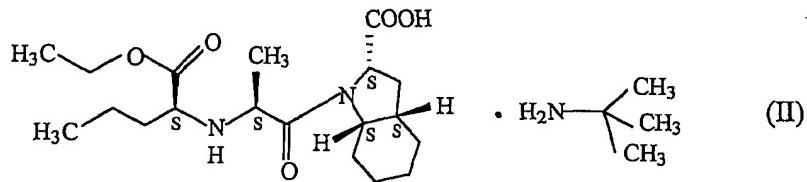


CLAIMS

1. A selective process for preparation of crystalline perindopril erbumine of formula  
 5 (II),



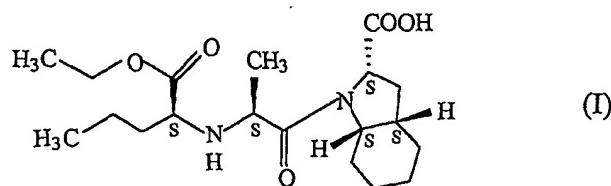
exhibiting the following X-ray (powder) diffraction pattern,

| <i>d-spacing (Å)</i> | <i>Angle (°2θ)</i> | <i>Relative Intensity (%)</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10.239               | 8.628              | 1.16                          |
| 8.886                | 9.945              | 49.45                         |
| 7.453                | 11.863             | 10.26                         |
| 6.054                | 14.618             | 3.35                          |
| 5.716                | 15.487             | 14.10                         |
| 5.435                | 16.294             | 33.06                         |
| 5.082                | 17.434             | 100.00                        |
| 4.844                | 18.296             | 14.06                         |
| 4.661                | 19.023             | 5.88                          |
| 4.278                | 20.744             | 8.50                          |
| 4.116                | 21.570             | 17.02                         |
| 3.869                | 22.965             | 36.43                         |
| 3.565                | 24.950             | 11.58                         |
| 3.337                | 26.690             | 6.65                          |
| 3.125                | 28.531             | 11.60                         |
| 2.993                | 29.823             | 3.93                          |
| 2.778                | 32.194             | 4.65                          |
| 2.718                | 32.918             | 4.19                          |
| 2.619                | 34.196             | 3.28                          |
| 2.551                | 35.140             | 2.52                          |
| 2.482                | 36.151             | 1.83                          |
| 2.391                | 37.578             | 1.77                          |
| 2.245                | 40.129             | 0.69                          |
| 2.077                | 43.534             | 0.94                          |

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comprising,

reaction of a solution of perindopril of formula (I),



5       in a solvent selected from N,N-dimethylformamide or dimethyl acetals of lower aliphatic aldehydes and ketones with tertiary butylamine and crystallization of the erbumine salt thus obtained by heating the reaction mixture to reflux, filtering hot, cooling gradually to 20°C to 30°C, and further cooling to 0°C to 15°C for 30 minutes to 1 hour and finally filtering off and drying the crystals.

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2.       A process according to Claim 1, wherein the dimethyl acetals of lower aliphatic aldehydes and ketones is selected from dimethoxymethane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane and 2,2-dimethoxypropane.

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